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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 26, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 21 totaled an estimated 18.4 billion ton-miles, 0.3 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 8 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 139 billion ton-miles, 1.2 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 21 totaled 439,467 cars, 0.8 percent below 1980, but 5.5 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 5.4 percent in the East, but down 3.8 in the South, and 3.2 in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 125,823, the highest individual week since the week ended December 17, 1958. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year. .

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended February 14 totaled 31,840 cars, down 7 4 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 57,864 trailers and/or containers, 7.5 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 7 weeks of the year was 209,776 cars, 8.5 percent lower than last year, and 379,008 trailers and/or containers, down 8.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 02/21/81:

	Loadings in Week ended February 21, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,201	D	263	0.9	I	1,336	4.6
Other farm products	4,265	I	3	0.1	I	704	19.8
Metallic ores	24,983	I	3,405	15.8	I	1,681	7.2
Coal	125,823	I	18,898	17.7	I	11,898	10.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,944	D	3,129	23.9	D	63	0 6
Nonmetallic minerals	12,090	D	1,271	9.5	D	559	4.4
Grain mill products	16,257	D	2,001	11.0	D	75	0.5
Food and kindred products	16,497	D	1,638	9.0	I	118	0.7
Primary forest products	18,830	D	2,597	12.1	I	1,006	5.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,581	D	2,493	22.5	I	358	4.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,403	D	1,262	5.8	I	747	3.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,712	D	707	2.5	D	283	1.0
Petroleum products	5,522	D	924	14.3	D	103	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	13,346	D	1,483	10.0	I	612	4.8
Coke	6,211	D	112	1.8	D	505	7.5
Metals and products	17,481	I	83	0.5	I	1,646	10.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,108	D	4,132	19.5	I	2,272	15.3
Waste and scrap materials	13,018	D	580	4.3	I	894	7.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,320	D	955	8.5	I	438	4.4
All other carloads	40,598	D	2,552	5.9	I	661	1.7
LCL traffic	277	D	30	9.8	I	14	5.3
Total Cars Loaded	439,467	D	3,740	0.8	I	22,797	5.5
Corresponding week of 1980	443,207						

	1981	1980		% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	3,334,302	3,455,263	D	3.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
7 Weeks cumulative	120.6	118.9	I	1.5
Week ended February 21	18.4	18.4	D	0.3
8 Weeks cumulative	139.0	137.3	I	1.2

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